

LAWTON ARTS REVIEW

The latest news from the City of Lawton's Arts and Humanities Division

Our Mission

To encourage and promote artistic expression and diversity in the City of Lawton.

Our Vision

To create an enduring artistic and cultural community.

Who we are

Jason Poudrier | Arts Administrator
 Andrea Morman | Auditorium Coordinator
 Gary Reddin | Arts Coordinator
 Tereasa Neeley | Administrative Assistant
 Broderick Jackson II | Maintenance Tech
 Stavis Morman | PT House Manager
 Manuel Smith Jr. | PT Maintenance Tech

Arts and Humanities Division

Phone: 580-581-3470
 Email: arts@lawtonok.gov

What's Inside?

Update from the Arts Admin | Pg 1
 Student Performance Registration | Pg 2
 Digital Resolution | Pg 2
 New Roles | Pg 2
 What's New at the Auditorium | Pg 3
 Return of Events | Pg 3
 Now Filming in Lawton | Pg 4
 Coming Attractions | Pg 4



In December, you may have read the headline or a social media post that stated, “City Council votes to dissolve the Arts and Humanities Council;” however, don’t fear, it is not going away, the entity as a “Public Trust” was dissolved so it could merge with the McMahon Auditorium Authority, saving the council thousands in auditing and accounting expenses annually – money that can now be spent on the arts. The council will live on as a more efficient and effective committee under the McMahon Auditorium Authority.

For 2022, The Oklahoma Arts Council has awarded over \$25,000 in grants to our community for International Festival, Student Performances, and new Military and the Arts Initiative programming. Under my direction as Arts and Humanities Administrator, “We don’t have the funds,” is not an answer—the answer is to find funding through available grants and collaborate with businesses, organizations, and nonprofits willing to co-sponsor events with matching funds and volunteers.

We are already planning in-person events and invite those wishing to get involved to send us an email at arts@lawtonok.gov to learn how. It takes a community to put on community events.

Thank you to all the medical workers and scientists who continue to work diligently to take care of us and develop effective vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 and its variants. My heart goes out to all those who have lost loved ones, to those facing long-term COVID-19 symptoms, and to those who feel distant, detached, and despondent due to the canceling of public events and the wearing of masks. I am excited about 2022 bringing us all back together in person and for what it has in store for the City of Lawton.

Thank you board members, volunteers, and staff for your guidance, time, trust, and support!

- Jason Poudrier, Arts Administrator



LCT Presents "Toy Camp" A student performance

Enter into the world of make-believe, a place where toys learn to be good toys at "Toy Camp". Ted E Bear, Princess Ann, Glow Toy, and others have come to Toy Camp to hopefully graduate and earn their price tags to be sold at toy stores.

School registration deadline is Friday, January 28th by 5 p.m.
Performances for schools and small groups will be Thursday,
February 24th at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. at the McMahon
Memorial Auditorium

**Evening performance for
general audiences at 6:30
p.m. on Thursday, February
24th.**

**Cost is \$5 for general
admission**



Going Digital for 2022

This year, the Arts & Humanities Division has resolved to push into new digital mediums. Soon you will be able to find us on Instagram and YouTube where we will be bringing you new content.

What better way to share all the wonderful arts news from the City of Lawton than through pictures and videos! One of our very first projects will be to showcase Lawton's diverse artistic talent through a video series highlighting cultural performances from groups like the Comanche Youth Dancers and the Cameron University Jazz band.

We are also looking into ways to digitize ticket sales for shows at the McMahon Memorial Auditorium.

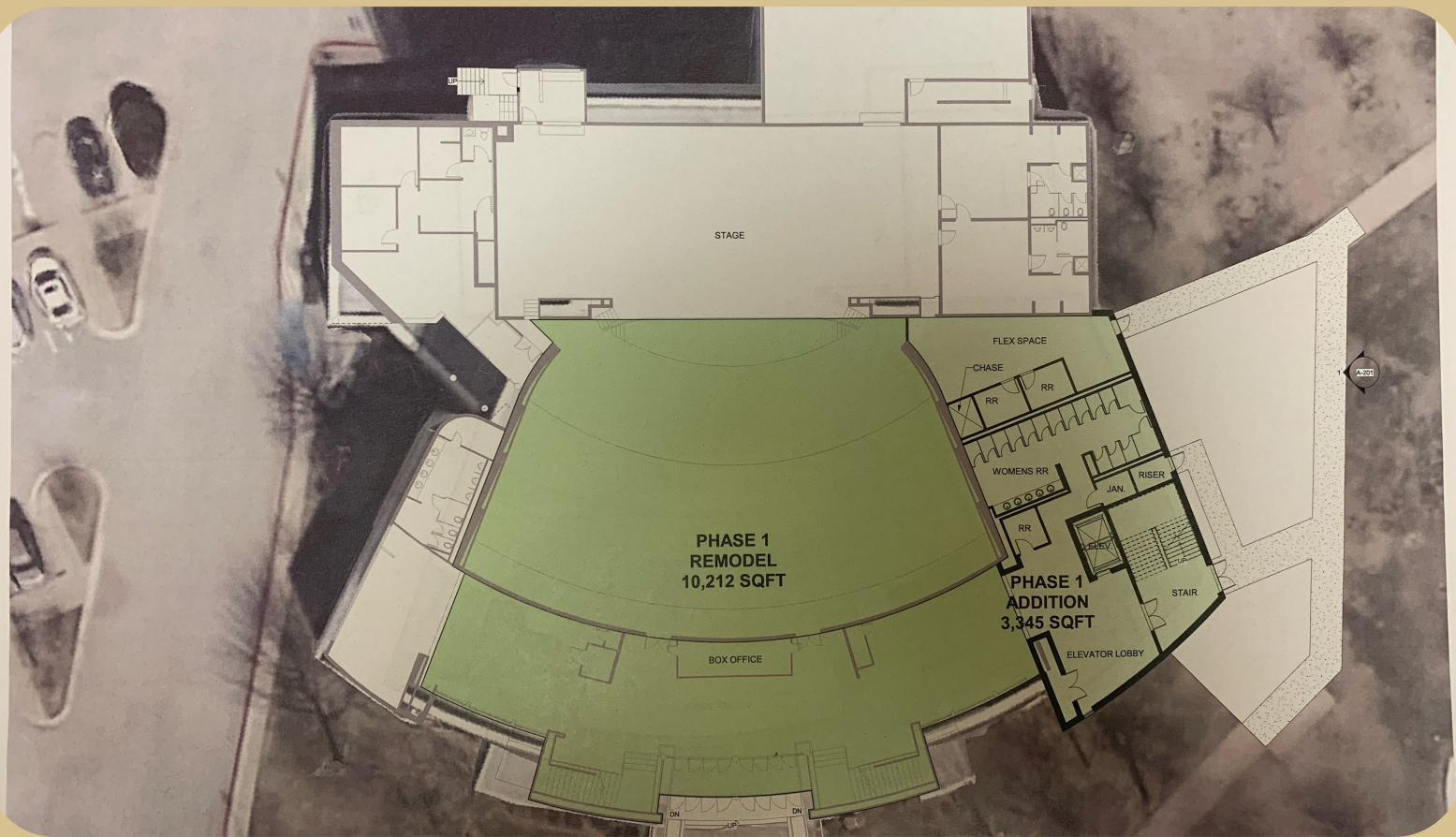
We're excited about these new projects and can't wait to share them with you this year!

New Roles, Same Mission

This year we are welcoming some new roles, but our mission to "encourage and promote artistic expression and diversity in the City of Lawton," stays the same.

With over twenty years of experience working with the City of Lawton at McMahon Memorial Auditorium, Andrea Morman is being promoted to Arts and Humanities Deputy Administrator, a new position created for 2022. Over the years, Morman has taken on increasing responsibilities, and the promotion and new title recognizes her contributions to the City of Lawton and the Arts and Humanities Division.

In November, we welcomed Gary Reddin as our new Arts Coordinator. Reddin is the former editor for 580 Monthly and served for several years as the arts and entertainment reporter for The Lawton Constitution.



Design by Guernsey

What's New at the Auditorium?

Louise McMahon’s legacy lives on through the board of the McMahon Auditorium Authority who have advocated for and overseen numerous improvements to the McMahon Memorial Auditorium.

Within the last few years a new, premium lighting and sound system was installed along with a new sound booth. A new section of removable seats was added to the downstairs for increased accessibility. The installation of a new fire suppression system is scheduled for January 2022, and plans have been drawn for a 4.5-million-dollar addition that will include a new HVAC system, elevator, expanded ADA compliant women’s bathrooms, and additional auxiliary stairs.

The McMahon Auditorium Authority’s efforts have assisted McMahon Memorial Auditorium in maintaining its position as the premier performance venue in Southwest Oklahoma, and the updates assist us in attracting top-notch talent to perform at our venue. We are also excited about the new offerings available to the public—we are proud to continue offering reasonable rates and fees and look forward to the opportunity to team with local performers, businesses, organizations, and non-profits.

We'd love to see you on our stage!

If you're interested in booking the McMahon Memorial Auditorium for your next event, please contact us at arts@lawtonok.gov or call (580) 581-3472.

Returning Events for 2022

This year we are bringing back the Lawton Cultural Awards as well as the 1 to 6 Art Purchase. These awards have been on hiatus since the start of the pandemic; we are very excited to bring them back for 2022. Meanwhile we are also making plans for International Festival, which has also been on hiatus since the pandemic began. We can't wait to get these events back on track and make them bigger and better than ever.



Feature Begins Filming in Lawton

The City of Lawton, the Lawton Arts & Humanities Division, and the Museum of the Great Plains are proud to announce “Washington’s Armor,” a historical feature film depicting the adventures of young George Washington 20 years prior to the revolutionary war, recently begun production at the Museum of the Great Plains’ trading post in Lawton.

The production becomes the first film to utilize the city since it achieved “Film Friendly” certification through The Oklahoma Film + Music Office in September 2021.

The production crew for “Washington’s Armor” began a multi-day shoot in Lawton that will wrap this Thursday, January 6th. The movie is scheduled to premiere on Presidents Day and can be streamed online at theepochtimes.com and on ntd.com.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Make Sure to Save The Date for These Upcoming Shows at the McMahon Memorial Auditorium

Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra presents
“Prokofiev and Brahms”

Saturday, February 12th, 7:30 pm

McMahon Auditorium Authority presents
Lawton Community Theatre’s production of “Toy Camp”

Thursday, February 24, 6:30 pm

Veterans Expressions: Theatre Workshops
For Veterans and Military Families
featuring Doug Berky and Jeff Key
 Wednesday, March 14th -Saturday, March 19th

Melody House presents
“Stephen Fite Children’s Concerts”
 Tuesday, April 5th, 10 am & 12:15 pm

Southwest Pride presents
“Barbershop Goes to Washington”
 Friday April 8th & Saturday April 9th, 7:30 pm

Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra presents
“Cowboys & Fiddlers”
 Saturday, April 23rd, 7:30 pm

Friday, March 25th @ 7 p.m.

Live at
McMahon
Memorial
Auditorium

**BELLAMY
BROTHERS**

Friday, March 25th @ 7 p.m.

For more information call
(580) 581-3470
facebook.com/lawtonarts

